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Guidance

# National curriculum tests from 2016

Updated 14 July 2014

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The new [national curriculum](#) will be assessed for the first time in May 2016.  
There will be new tests for key stage 1, as well as key stage 2.

## What the tests will cover

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The tests will cover English reading, English grammar, punctuation and spelling, and mathematics at key stages 1 and 2. There will also be a key stage 2 science sampling test every other year.

## Test frameworks

[Test frameworks](#) are available for each test. The frameworks are written primarily for test developers, however teachers may also be interested in them. Each test framework sets out:

- what will and won't be assessed by the test
- how each element of the subject will be assessed
- the proposed structure of the test
- the standard a child will be expected to achieve in the test

The test frameworks are currently draft documents. National curriculum tests take up to 3 years to develop. The process includes 2 rounds of expert review of each potential question as well as 2 trials with children. We may make small changes as a result of this work; however, we do not expect the main elements of the frameworks to change.

The test frameworks do not provide information on how you should teach the new national curriculum. You should not use the frameworks to guide teaching and learning.

## Sample materials

We have published a small number of [sample questions](#) for each key stage and subject. These documents illustrate new question types that will be included in tests from 2016. They also indicate how some of the new

curriculum content will be assessed.

## **How the tests will be administered**

### **Key stage 1**

Administration arrangements are currently being confirmed. We will provide information online and via emails to headteachers once decisions have been made. Administration and marking guidance will be provided with the live tests.

### **Key stage 2**

The key stage 2 tests will be administered and marked in the same way as the current tests.

## **Further information**

During the 2015 summer term we will publish:

- a full set of sample tests and mark schemes for each of the national curriculum tests at key stages 1 and 2
- guidance on how the results of national curriculum tests will be reported, including an explanation of scaled scores
- final test frameworks

We will also include details in our assessment update emails to headteachers.

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